

Resource document

Tactical

Slips, trips and falls/Three points of contact

Lori Yerdon

lori.a.yerdon.civ@mail.mil

334-255-3557

Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

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Narrative:

There's an element of risk involved when Soldiers work in motor pools, around aircraft or any equipment that must be climbed to accomplish different tasks. For many Soldiers its part of a safely accomplished mission, but for others, a split second mishap serves as a lifelong reminder of the associated hazards.

Soldiers should always be aware of hazards, especially when climbing onto or off of equipment during maintenance or while securing equipment for transport. Climbing on and off equipment may sound easy however, when Soldiers don't complete their tasks safely, they risk severe injury.

The keys to preventing these types of accidents are engaged leadership, education and a positive safety culture.

Incorporating these elements into a unit will promote safety and effectively influence Soldiers to carry it with them wherever they are and whatever they are doing. A positive culture builds teamwork, reliability and effectiveness among personnel.

Key Messages:

- Soldiers should always be aware of the hazards associated with mounting and dismounting equipment. If they don't, they're susceptible to leg, knee, wrist, arm and upper body injuries.
- First-line leaders have the greatest influence on their Soldiers, and they should reiterate that paying attention and addressing safety issues is part of everyone's responsibility.
- Indiscipline will not tolerated; Soldiers know the standards and must not be allowed to willful disregard them.

Talking points:

- Leaders must enforce training and integrate risk management into all phases of operations to mitigate hazards related to mounting and dismounting equipment.
- Soldiers can be part of the solution in preventing the next accident.
- Leaders enforce the standard, implement a zero-tolerance indiscipline policy and engage you Soldiers.
- Paying attention and addressing safety issues is part of everyone's responsibility.

Tips:

Soldiers need to be cognizant of their surroundings at all times, especially when working on and around equipment. Climbing on and off equipment sounds easy enough, but it

only takes a second for a mishap to happen when Soldiers take shortcuts, ignore SOPs or when they let complacency set in.

Keep the following tips in mind to help prevent injuries while working on equipment:

- Use extreme caution when mounting and .dismounting a vehicle or any piece of equipment. Never dismount equipment by jumping.
- Ensure you understand the three points of contact method when mounting, dismounting or moving around on equipment. Three points of contact means having two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand on the equipment at all times.
- Break three points of contact only when you reach the ground, cab, turret or a stable platform.
- Use the parts designed by the manufacturer for mounting and dismounting – steps, running boards, traction strips, footholds, hand grips, etc. – and keep those parts clear of mud, snow, grease and other hazards that can cause slips, trips or falls.
- Do not use wheel hubs, machine tracks or door handles for mounting or dismounting.
- Ensure the driver or gunner is aware when personnel are mounting and dismounting.
- Never mount or dismount a moving vehicle. Drivers must bring the vehicle to a complete stop before allowing anyone to mount or dismount.
- Never climb in front of a weapon to mount a vehicle.
- Wear protective gloves.
- Remove all jewelry before conducting maintenance. Watches, rings, ID tags, or other jewelry can short batter terminals or catch on vehicle components.

Historical Reference:

<https://safety.army.mil/>

<https://safety.army.mil/drivertrainingtoolbox/> (AKO log in required)

<https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/CAMPAIGNSINITIATIVES/KnowtheSigns/tabid/2369/Default.aspx>

Statistics:

- Between fiscal years 2008-2013, 16 Class B accidents caused by improper mounting and dismounting procedures were reported to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. All 16 resulted in the amputation of fingers or fingertips, and 10 involved Soldiers wearing rings that caught on equipment.